

BUDGET WEEK

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
Majority Caucus

309 Cannon House Office Building
www.budget.house.gov (202) 226-7270









Volume 1, No. 3

Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

23 July 2001

Week of 23 July 2001

SUSPENSION CALENDAR and LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER UNANIMOUS CONSENT

- 1) **21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act** (H.R. 2215). 
This legislation authorizes funding appropriated in the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill. It does not increase direct spending and is consistent with the budget resolution.
- 2) **To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a former Bureau of Land Management administrative site to the city of Carson City, Nevada, for use as a senior center.** (H.R. 271). 
This bill conveys property to Carson City, NV. Because the land in question is not expected to generate any receipts, this legislation will not affect direct spending or revenues.
- 3) **To provide further protections for the watershed of the Little Sandy River as part of the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit, Oregon, and for other purposes.** (H.R. 427). 
The legislation sets aside certain Federal land as wilderness area, but because this area is not expected to generate any receipts, the bill is not expected to affect direct spending or revenues.
- 4) **Mount Nebo Wilderness Boundary Adjustment Act** (H.R. 451). 
The legislation sets aside certain Federal land as wilderness area, but because the area is not expected to generate any receipts, the bill is not expected to affect direct spending or revenues.
- 5) **Criminal Law Technical Amendments Act of 2001** (H.R. 2137). 
This bill has no budgetary implications.
- 6) **Family Sponsor Immigration Act of 2001** (H.R. 1892). 
This bill would not have significant budgetary consequences, although receipts may be increased by a negligible amount. The bill is consistent with the budget resolution.
- 7) **Honoring four firefighters who lost their lives fighting the Thirtymile Fire in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State** (H.Res. 201). 
This bill has no budgetary implications.
- 8) **A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to rename the education individual retirement accounts as the Coverdell education savings account** (S. 1190). 
This bill has no budgetary implications.

(over please)

PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to express support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the House Committee on the Budget. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

9) **James C. Corman Federal Building Designation Act** (S. 468).



This bill has no budgetary implications.

10) **Expressing the sincerest condolences of the House of Representatives to the families of the 42 people, including 37 children, killed in the March 6, 2001, explosion at the Fanglin elementary school in the Jianxi province of the People's Republic of China** (H.Res. 121).



This bill has no budgetary implications.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: ***Disapproving the extension of the waiver authority contained in section 402(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to Vietnam*** (H.J.Res. 55).



Committees: Judiciary and Ways and Means

Summary: This legislation would disapprove the extension of the waiver authority contained in section 402(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to Vietnam. Under the 1974 a, nondiscriminatory trade relations may not be conferred on a country with a nonmarket economy if that country maintains restrictive emigration policies. The President may waive this prohibition on an annual basis, however, if he certifies that doing so would promote freedom of emigration in that country. H.J. Res. 55 would disapprove the President's extension of this waiver.

Budget Act: The disapproval of the waiver authority would not affect direct spending or receipts. This bill will not be subject to points of order under the Congressional Budget Act, and is consistent with the budget resolution.

Bill: ***Treasury/Postal Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2002***

Committee: Appropriations

Summary: The Appropriations Committee had not released the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimate of this bill as of the preparation of this Budget Week summary.

Budget Act: Because the CBO estimate is not available, it has not been determined whether this appropriations bill is within its 302(b) allocation.

Bill: ***VA/HUD Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2002***

Committee: Appropriations

Summary: The Appropriations Committee had not released the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimate of this bill as of the preparation of this account.

Budget Act: This appropriations act contains \$1.2 billion in emergency-designated spending to respond to floods in Texas. It also contains a \$4.2 billion advance appropriation for section 8 Housing at HUD. Section 8 is one of the spending categories included in the list of anticipated advance appropriations identified in section 201 of the conference report on the budget resolution for fiscal year 2002 (H.Con.Res. 83). Because the CBO estimate is not available, it has not been determined whether this appropriations bill is within its 302(b) allocation.

Bill: ***Patients' Bill of Rights Act of 2001*** (H.R. 2315).

Committees: Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Education and Labor.
(This legislation has not been reported.)

Summary: This bill contains new coverage requirements on health plans, allows new causes of action against health plans, and contains certain provisions to increase access to health care. New coverage requirements relate to a point-of-service option, emergency and

(continued on next page)

post-stabilization care, specialty care, Ob/Gyn and pediatric care, clinical trials, prescription drugs, and continuity of care, among others. New causes of Federal action allow for unlimited economic damages, noneconomic damages of up to \$500,000, and no punitive damages. The access provisions repeal restrictions on Medical Savings Accounts [MSAs] and establish rules concerning Association Health Plans [AHPs].

Budget Act: Full scoring on this legislation and potential alternatives is not yet complete, but the following information has been made available. In addition to changes in the tax treatment of health insurance and plans, the Joint Committee on Taxation [JCT] and the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] have estimated that because employers are likely to pass along the effects of mandates in the legislation through lower employment levels and restrained salaries, the legislation reduces projected revenue estimates by \$120 million in 2002, and by \$3.2 billion in 2002 through 2006. Nevertheless, overall Government projected revenue would remain above the levels provided for in the budget resolution, both in 2002 and over the 5-year period, and hence the bill would not be subject to a revenue point of order under the Congressional Budget Act. The legislation would cause direct spending (spending not controlled through the appropriations process) to slightly increase – by \$12 million over 5 years – and hence normally would be subject to a point of order. Because this bill has not been reported by an authorizing committee, however, it is not subject to Budget Act points of order. The overall cost of the bill is not offset by corresponding revenue increases or spending reductions, which could trigger or increase a pay-as-you-go [PAYGO] sequester of certain non-exempt entitlement programs.

ON THE HORIZON

Energy-Related Legislation

Four separate committees have completed markup of energy legislation – Energy and Commerce (committee print), Resources (HR 2436), Science (HR 2460), and Ways and Means (HR 2511)). It is anticipated that the Rules committee will consolidate these measures into a single legislative vehicle, which will be considered on the House floor the final week before the August recess. Only the Energy and Commerce Committee print, as marked up, appears to have Budget Act implications.

Title I of the Energy and Commerce committee print moves the Nuclear Waste Fund “off budget.” This action, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee, would remove the fund from the President’s budget and the congressional budget resolution, and exempt it from all spending controls. Because it makes changes to law within the Budget Committee’s jurisdiction, the provision would be subject to a point of order under section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act. Additional provisions in the committee print, as amended during markup, contain direct spending which would be also subject to a point of order. Finally, prohibitions on the sale of uranium contained in the amended version could lower receipts already anticipated in CBO revenue projections, raising possible points of order.